



## KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

### Signature Report

#### Ordinance 19604

**Proposed No.** 2023-0095.2

**Sponsors** Zahilay and Kohl-Welles

1           AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the  
2           qualified electors of King County at a special election to be  
3           held in King County on August 1, 2023, a proposition  
4           authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy  
5           limitations contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a  
6           consecutive six-year period at a rate of not more than ten  
7           cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the  
8           first year, and limiting annual levy increases to three and  
9           one-half percent in the five succeeding years, all for the  
10          purpose of supporting veterans and military  
11          servicemembers and their respective families; seniors and  
12          their caregivers; and resilient communities in King County  
13          by funding regional health and human services and capital  
14          facilities to promote housing stability, healthy living,  
15          financial stability, social engagement and health and human  
16          services system improvements and system access;  
17          providing for a resident advisory board; and directing  
18          proposal of an implementation plan for the veterans,  
19          seniors and human services levy, contingent upon voter  
20          approval of the levy.

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## 21           STATEMENT OF FACTS:

22           1. After approving the first six-year veterans and human services levy in  
23           2005, King County voters have since voted twice to maintain levy-  
24           supported services for veterans and human services in King County,  
25           including adding seniors and their caregivers as a population explicitly  
26           served by the levy in 2017. Ordinance 15279, which created the initial  
27           levy for 2006 through 2011 and placed the levy on the ballot for King  
28           County voter consideration, was approved by fifty-eight percent of voters.  
29           Ordinance 17072, which placed the second levy on the ballot for King  
30           County voters, was approved by sixty-nine percent of voters, renewed the  
31           levy for 2012 through 2017. Ordinance 18555, which placed the third  
32           levy on the ballot for King County voters, was approved by sixty-eight  
33           percent of voters, renewed and expanded the levy for 2018 through 2023.  
34           This ordinance is the fourth time King County will ask voters to consider  
35           the veterans, seniors and human services levy.

36           2. Since its inception as the veterans and human services levy in 2006 and  
37           through its renewals in 2011 and 2017, the veterans, seniors and human  
38           services levy has served hundreds of thousands of veterans, military  
39           servicemembers and their families, as well as seniors, individuals, and  
40           families in need. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services  
41           levy has served more than one hundred and eighty-five thousand people,  
42           including more than twenty-seven thousand veterans, servicemembers or  
43           their families, and more than one hundred thousand seniors.

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44           3. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy has  
45           supported more than three hundred programs led by more than one  
46           hundred fifty community-based organizations, of which more than a third  
47           are small organizations. More than seventy-five percent of levy-supported  
48           programs offer services countywide, with physical service sites available  
49           throughout the county and some programs specifically provide mobile  
50           services.

51           4. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supports  
52           programs that contribute to outcomes in the following five result areas:  
53           housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement, and  
54           service system access and improvement.

55           5. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human service levy contributed to  
56           the creation of more than one thousand two hundred units of affordable  
57           housing and one hundred ninety-eight new shelter beds for individuals and  
58           families experiencing homelessness in King County through its housing  
59           stability strategies to help prevent and reduce homelessness and to address  
60           the shortage of affordable housing.

61           6. In 2021, King County partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans  
62           Affairs and King County Housing Authority to increase the use of federal  
63           housing vouchers to help house low-income veterans in King County  
64           experiencing homelessness. The partnership is a first in the nation pilot  
65           program using King County veterans program social services staff to  
66           support veterans finding and maintaining housing using federal housing

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67 vouchers. From its launch in April 2021 through September 30, 2022, the  
68 levy-supported collaborative case management program helped one  
69 hundred sixty-four veteran households obtain vouchers, with one hundred  
70 households moving into permanent housing.

71 7. King County tracks the number of veteran households experiencing  
72 homelessness through the Homeless Management Information System. On  
73 March 31, 2017, one thousand two hundred fifty-two veteran households  
74 were active in the homeless system. As of November 30, 2022, the system  
75 showed an estimated seven hundred forty-four veteran households actively  
76 experiencing homelessness in King County, a reduction of more than forty  
77 percent since the peak in March 2017.

78 8. King County is home to one in five veterans living in Washington state  
79 according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. More than two-  
80 thirds of the veterans residing in King County are fifty-five or older.

81 9. King County veterans program uses levy proceeds to create veteran  
82 service hubs that connect more than two thousand veterans and their  
83 families each year to the services supported through the levy's financial  
84 stability strategies that support King County residents in gaining and  
85 maintaining self-sufficiency. These service hubs coordinate with other  
86 veteran service providers to provide access and connection to an array of  
87 services at the King County veterans program sites.

88 10. In 2019, veterans accounted for six thousand two hundred sixty-one  
89 suicides in the United States, or more than thirteen percent of the total

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90 number of people dying by suicide nationwide, according to a 2021 report  
91 on veteran suicide by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.  
92 Veteran suicide-related deaths are increasing at a greater rate than that of  
93 the general United States population. According to the Centers for  
94 Disease Control and Prevention, suicide risk factors include mental health  
95 conditions and substance use disorders, as well as economic insecurity,  
96 housing insecurity, isolation and stress.

97 11. More than two hundred thirty veterans and thirty military family  
98 members receive counseling each year supported through the levy's  
99 healthy living strategies to help them manage the effects of trauma in  
100 healthy ways. Those counseling services add relief to an already stressed  
101 mental health care system by providing an additional thirty-two licensed  
102 mental health counselors who focus on the impact of military service.

103 12. Overall, more adults report feeling anxious or depressed since the start  
104 of the COVID-19 pandemic according to public health - Seattle & King  
105 County data. According to a 2020 Washington state Department of Health  
106 community recovery-oriented needs assessment survey for King County,  
107 twenty-five percent of respondents reported that they had experienced  
108 poor mental health on at least fourteen days in the previous month. A  
109 Kaiser Family Foundation study on older adults in August 2020 showed  
110 rates of depression and anxiety are higher among adults ages sixty-five  
111 and older relative to rates in 2018. A Kaiser Family Foundation report on  
112 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lesbian, gay, bisexual and

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113 transgender people reveals a disproportionate impact on their mental  
114 health.

115 13. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, thirteen percent of  
116 Americans report having started or increased substance use as a way of  
117 coping with stress or emotions related to COVID-19, according to the  
118 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In King County, overdose  
119 deaths across all substance types reached an all-time high during and after  
120 the pandemic, with data from the King County medical examiner's office  
121 showing a 137 percent increase in overdose fatalities between 2019 and  
122 2022 and a 551 percent increase in overdose fatalities caused by fentanyl.

123 14. The Washington state Office of Financial Management estimates  
124 twenty-five percent of King County residents were aged fifty-five or older  
125 in 2020 and estimates that proportion to increase to thirty percent by 2040.  
126 As the population of older adults increases statewide, so does the  
127 population of older adults from racially and ethnically diverse  
128 communities or backgrounds.

129 15. The responsibility to care for vulnerable seniors impacts all  
130 generations according to a research report conducted in 2020 by the  
131 American Association of Retired Persons. According to the United States  
132 Department of Health and Human Services, adults ages sixty-five and  
133 older have a seventy percent chance of needing some type of long-term  
134 care service. That work will in many cases require assistance from unpaid  
135 caregivers, including spouses, adult children and acquaintances.

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136 16. Eighty-five percent of persons sixty-five or older nationwide have one  
137 or more chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular  
138 disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, cancer or arthritis,  
139 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention behavioral  
140 risk factor surveillance system. Racial, ethnic and place-based  
141 disproportionalities unevenly distribute these conditions and risk factors  
142 across King County.

143 17. Actual and perceived social isolation are both associated with  
144 increased risk for premature death, according to the National Academies  
145 of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine study on social isolation and  
146 loneliness in older adults. The influence of social isolation on the risk of  
147 death is comparable with risk factors for mortality such as smoking. Older  
148 adults who are immigrants or a part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
149 transgender, questioning, queer, intersex and asexual plus community may  
150 be at higher risk for social isolation and loneliness due to factors like  
151 discrimination and barriers to care. Social isolation is also associated with  
152 a fifty percent increased risk of dementia. Poor social relationships are  
153 associated with a twenty-nine percent increased risk of heart disease, and a  
154 thirty-two percent increased risk of stroke.

155 18. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supports  
156 thirty-nine senior centers to form twenty-two senior hubs as part of the  
157 levy's social engagement strategies to improve King County's senior  
158 residents' feelings of engagement in community. More than twenty-eight

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159       thousand seniors each year receive nutritious meals and connections to  
160       critical services to combat social isolation since the senior hubs program  
161       launched in 2020.

162       19. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy also  
163       supports the geriatric regional assessment team to deliver home-visiting  
164       behavioral health and human services intervention to more than three  
165       hundred fifty seniors total since the levy supported the assessment team's  
166       relaunch in 2020.

167       20. Ordinance 18555 and the veterans, seniors and human services levy  
168       implementation plan adopted by Ordinance 18768 dedicate support for  
169       vulnerable populations through the 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and  
170       human services levy. The department of community and human services  
171       reframed the population served by that levy's proceeds as resilient  
172       communities to emphasize community strength in the midst of  
173       vulnerability.

174       21. Of the twenty-one million people trafficked worldwide,  
175       approximately eighty percent are labor trafficking survivors and victims of  
176       forced labor, bonded labor and domestic servitude.

177       22. More than eighteen percent of King County adults have one or more  
178       physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities. According to the  
179       Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations  
180       Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, persons living with  
181       one or more disabilities may have reduced social participation, experience



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182 difficulties in mobility, lack of assistive technology and face barriers in  
183 access to care to include communication, policy and programmatic  
184 barriers, all of which contribute to poor health and decreased quality of  
185 life.

186 23. According to data from the National Domestic Violence Hotline, there  
187 was a thirteen percent increase in domestic violence calls between January  
188 2020 and July 2021 in King County. Homicides resulting from domestic  
189 violence in King County increased by nearly four times during 2021  
190 compared to 2019, according to the King County prosecuting attorney's  
191 office. A statewide survey commissioned by the Washington state  
192 Supreme Court in 2015 found that low-income survivors of domestic  
193 violence experience the highest number of civil legal needs per capita  
194 relative to any other group surveyed.

195 24. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supported  
196 mobile advocacy services through the levy's service system access and  
197 improvement strategy for more than one thousand two hundred survivors  
198 of gender-based violence from January 2020 to September 2022. Eighty-  
199 four percent of these survivors were connected to an advocate within one  
200 day of reaching out for assistance.

201 25. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supported a  
202 service system access and improvement strategy to streamline how  
203 domestic violence survivors access services, designed to meet their  
204 individual needs. The resulting creation of a twenty-four-hour,

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205 multilingual and multimodal domestic violence hotline is now a single-  
206 line access to domestic violence services available in King County. Since  
207 the hotline's launch in July 2021 through the end of September 2022, it  
208 received more than sixteen thousand calls or texts to assist those in crisis  
209 and referred nearly seven thousand of those contacts to additional support.

210 26. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy introduced  
211 new investments for gender-based violence, legal aid and senior center  
212 services, nearly tripling the County's annual investment in these areas.

213 27. In 2021, the veterans, seniors and human services levy supported a  
214 contract with 501 Commons to survey more than two hundred thirty  
215 nonprofits based in and serving King County, employing more than  
216 twenty thousand people, to better understand the array of influences that  
217 contribute to employee recruitment, retention, and satisfaction in the  
218 nonprofit sector. Survey findings show that many nonprofit employees  
219 delivering critical human services earn wages at levels that make it  
220 difficult to live in the communities they serve, doing community-based  
221 work in King County.

222 28. According to the 2021 King County nonprofit employee engagement  
223 survey conducted by 501 Commons, sixty percent of surveyed staff would  
224 consider leaving the nonprofit sector to get better pay and fifty-four  
225 percent would consider leaving the nonprofit sector because of burnout or  
226 other fatigue. Nationally, turnover in nonprofits is nineteen percent,  
227 compared to twelve percent for all industries.

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228           29. In Motion 16129, the King County council requested the executive to  
229           produce an assessment report providing information, analysis, and  
230           recommendations to inform deliberations about a possible renewal of the  
231           voter-approved veterans, seniors, and human services levy. The  
232           assessment report drew upon program performance measurement data,  
233           feedback from levy providers and community input from fifty-two  
234           community engagement meetings. The executive transmitted the report to  
235           the King County council on September 6, 2022.

236           30. In addition to describing the impact to veterans, seniors and resilient  
237           communities served by the levy, the assessment report recommended  
238           continuing the 2018-2023 levy's five result areas and commitment to the  
239           three service populations, increasing levy resources to better address the  
240           scale of community needs and creating a regional impact initiatives fund  
241           within the levy to address regional human services priorities whose effects  
242           span the levy's priority populations.

243           31. In 2010, Ordinance 16897 established the King County Strategic Plan.  
244           In 2015, the King County council passed Motion 14317 updating and  
245           revising King County's vision, mission, guiding principles and goals.  
246           Included within the county's goals are improving the health and well-being  
247           of all people in King County, increasing access to quality housing that is  
248           affordable to all, implementing alternatives to divert people from the  
249           criminal justice system and ensuring that county government operates  
250           efficiently and effectively and is accountable to the public. The guiding

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251 principles set out by the county's strategic plan provide a framework to  
252 guide the county's actions: "address the root causes of inequities to  
253 provide equal access for all; engage with partners, community and public  
254 and private organizations to achieve goals; align support, policy and  
255 operational goals of King County government; and provide effective,  
256 efficient local governance and services to unincorporated areas."

257 32. In 2010, the county adopted Ordinance 16948 establishing definitions  
258 and implementation steps for the county's work related to equity and social  
259 justice to achieve the "fair and just" principle. King County applies the  
260 principles of equity and social justice to eliminate racially and ethnically  
261 disparate health and human services outcomes in King County. The 2018-  
262 2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy supports community-led  
263 and community-informed organizations that are reflective of and  
264 embedded in the communities they serve, advances equitable access to  
265 levy resources for community providers and communities, and ensures  
266 that investments are focused on communities that have been impacted by  
267 historic and ongoing inequity, discrimination, isolation and lack of  
268 resources. Equity and social justice shall continue to guide the council  
269 and the executive in the process of designing, administering, and  
270 evaluating the policies and programs related to the renewed veterans,  
271 seniors and human services levy, if it is approved by voters.

272 33. It is the intent of the county that over the course of the six-year levy  
273 the majority of levy proceeds expended to build capital facilities under

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274 authority of this ordinance shall be for low-income households. Specific  
275 low-income threshold levels are defined by the U.S. Department of  
276 Housing and Urban Development or its successor agency and vary  
277 according to household size.

278 34. It is the intent of the county to continue to strengthen the human  
279 services network to ensure that services supported by a renewed veterans,  
280 seniors and human services levy are integrated and working together as a  
281 complete system that is responsive to communities seeking access or  
282 support in navigating resources.

283 35. It is the intent of the county to continue, without interruption, critical  
284 regional health and human services to veterans, military servicemembers  
285 and their families, seniors and other persons in King County from the  
286 2018-2023 levy; to provide substantial investments in housing stability;  
287 and to engage in planning activities until the new implementation plan is  
288 adopted in accordance with section 7 of this ordinance.

289 36. The 2018-2023 veterans, seniors and human services levy will expire  
290 at the end of 2023.

291 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

292 SECTION 1. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this  
293 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

294 A. "Caregiver" means a person who cares for or supervises another person who  
295 requires care or supervision due to disability, chronic illness or a need for support in  
296 activities of daily living. "Caregiver" includes individuals providing care for a family

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297 member or someone with whom they have an ongoing personal relationship independent  
298 of their caregiver roles.

299 B. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and  
300 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state  
301 law.

302 C. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy and  
303 any interest earnings on the moneys and the proceeds of any interim or other financing  
304 following authorization of the levy.

305 D. "Limit factor" for purposes of calculating the levy limitations in RCW  
306 84.55.010, means one hundred three and one-half percent.

307 E. "Military servicemember" means a person who is serving as either an active  
308 duty, national guard member or a reservist member of the United States armed forces.

309 F. "Priority populations" means veterans and military servicemembers and their  
310 respective families, seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities.

311 G. "Regional health and human services" means a wide range of those services,  
312 programs, operations and capital facilities that promote outcomes relating to healthy  
313 living, housing stability, financial stability, social engagement, service system  
314 improvement and service system access to meet basic human needs and promote healthy  
315 living and healthy communities including, but not limited to:

316 1. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote  
317 housing stability or that contribute to making homelessness rare, brief and one-time by  
318 creating housing, preserving or modifying existing housing, or supporting persons in

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319 gaining or maintaining housing, including an assistance program to support persons who  
320 qualify to apply for a property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381;

321           2. Those health care and health promotion services, programs and operations  
322 that encourage healthy lifestyles and wellness, support food security, promote healthy  
323 aging, support recovery, reduce unintentional injury, support survivors of gender-based  
324 violence, promote suicide prevention efforts, and improve physical and behavioral health  
325 for individuals and families including, but not limited to, substance use disorder initiatives  
326 such as public awareness campaigns, substance use disorder professional workforce  
327 resilience, or peer navigators and upstream mental health care such as counseling and other  
328 therapeutic services;

329           3. Those services, programs and operations that address and support efforts to  
330 address firearm violence intervention and injury prevention to promote safe and thriving  
331 communities;

332           4. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote social  
333 engagement and community building, such as senior centers for individuals and groups in  
334 culturally, geographically, economically or linguistically isolated communities, and for  
335 others, such as seniors experiencing or at risk of social isolation and its health-harming  
336 effects;

337           5. Those services and programs that promote financial stability or financial  
338 mobility, including access to, preparation for, and assistance in, gaining or maintaining  
339 employment, income, education and financial literacy, including an assistance program to  
340 support persons who qualify to apply for a property tax exemption under RCW  
341 84.36.381;

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342           6. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that promote and  
343 support diversion away from the criminal legal system and its impacts, and services and  
344 programs that assist individuals recovering from the effects of their involvement with the  
345 criminal legal system, including services that promote restorative justice or returning to  
346 community after incarceration or detention, such as services aimed at supporting criminal  
347 legal system-involved individuals to attain or retain housing;

348           7. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that improve or  
349 expand the delivery of health and human services, improve health and human services  
350 system access and navigability, reduce or prevent the disparate or traumatic effects of  
351 systems upon resilient communities, build the capacity of communities to partner with  
352 King County and build the capacity and support the operations of health and human  
353 services providers to serve their clients and communities, including strategies to promote  
354 retention, recruitment and pay of high quality service providers;

355           8. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that improve or  
356 expand the delivery of civil legal aid to veterans, seniors and resilient communities;

357           9. Those services and programs that promote, encourage and support  
358 employment opportunities for veterans and military servicemembers, including  
359 employment opportunities in King County government such as the veterans internship  
360 program, a version of which has also been known as the Vets 4 HIRE program  
361 established by Ordinance 17450;

362           10. Those services and programs for veterans and military servicemembers  
363 involved with the criminal legal system, including assessment and referral to behavioral  
364 health services, housing resources, and other social service supports;

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365           11. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that further a goal  
366 of allowing seniors to age in place and enjoy a high quality of life in their own homes or  
367 where they reside;

368           12. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that provide  
369 education and workforce development and training for resilient communities; and

370           13. Those services, programs, operations and capital facilities that mitigate and  
371 offset the impacts of gentrification, including geographic displacement, on resilient  
372 communities.

373           H. "Regional impact initiatives" means those regional health and human services  
374 that provide or support responses to issues that affect all three of this levy's priority  
375 populations and which regional health and human services can help address such as, but  
376 not limited to, nonprofit health and human services workforce stability, language access,  
377 responding to the regional homelessness crisis or addressing community safety.

378           I. "Resilient communities" means persons or communities susceptible to reduced  
379 health, housing, financial or social stability outcomes due to systemic and historical  
380 exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination,  
381 disability or chronic illness. Examples of resilient communities include, but are not  
382 limited to: communities of color; immigrant and refugee communities; persons with  
383 disabilities; survivors of domestic violence and other gender-based violence; persons who  
384 identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex or asexual;  
385 and survivors of human trafficking.

386           J. "Senior" means a person who is at least fifty-five years old.

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387 K. "Substance use disorder initiative" means those regional health and human  
388 services that provide or support responses to issues relating to substance use disorders  
389 and recovery from substance use disorders.

390 L. "Technical assistance and capacity building" means assistance for providers of  
391 regional health and human services responding to requests for proposals or assistance to  
392 implement, improve, or expand their delivery of regional health and human services in  
393 King County.

394 M. "Veteran" means a person who has served as either an active duty, national  
395 guard member or a reservist member of the United States armed forces.

396 **SECTION 2. Levy submittal.** To provide necessary moneys to fund, finance or  
397 refinance the purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council  
398 shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular  
399 property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six  
400 consecutive years, with collection commencing in 2024, at a rate not to exceed \$0.10 per  
401 one thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar  
402 amount of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the maximum allowable  
403 levy amounts in years two through six (2025 – 2029) shall be calculated. In accordance  
404 with RCW 84.55.050, the levy shall be a regular property tax levy subject to the limit  
405 factor as defined in section 1 of this ordinance.

406 **SECTION 3. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited  
407 into a dedicated subfund of the veterans, seniors and human services levy fund, or its  
408 successor.

409 **SECTION 4. Eligible expenditures.**

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410           A. If approved by the qualified electors of the county, the sums from the first  
411   year's levy proceeds as are necessary may be used to provide for the costs and charges  
412   incurred by the county that are attributable to the election.

413           B. After the amount authorized in subsection A. of this section, the remaining  
414   levy proceeds shall be divided in the following proportions and used for the following  
415   purposes:

416           1. Thirty percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and  
417   evaluate regional health and human services for veterans and military servicemembers  
418   and their respective families;

419           2. Thirty percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and  
420   evaluate regional health and human services for seniors and their caregivers and to  
421   promote healthy aging in King County;

422           3. Thirty percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and  
423   evaluate regional health and human services for resilient communities;

424           4. Ten percent of levy proceeds shall be used to plan, provide, administer and  
425   evaluate regional impact initiatives and technical assistance and capacity building, of  
426   which at least ten percent of the levy proceeds identified in this subsection B.4. shall be used  
427   to support technical assistance and capacity building;

428           5. At least twenty-five percent of the levy proceeds described in this subsection  
429   B., including a portion from the thirty percent of levy proceeds to support each of the  
430   three priority populations identified in subsection B.1. through 3. of this section and a  
431   portion from the ten percent of levy proceeds to support regional impact initiatives

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identified in subsection B.4. of this section, shall be used to support those regional health and human services that promote housing stability; and

6. Levy proceeds may be used to mitigate the levy's impact on metropolitan park districts, fire districts or public hospital districts in King County to the extent their levies may be prorated, as mandated by RCW 84.52.010 and to the extent the levy was a demonstrable cause of the prorationing and only if the county council has authorized the expenditure by ordinance. Metropolitan park districts, fire districts or public hospital districts receiving levy proceeds shall use the proceeds for the purposes stated in subsection B.1. through 4. of this section.

**SECTION 5. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with the primary election on August 1, 2023, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the director of elections in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

PROPOSITION\_\_\_: The King County Council passed Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ concerning replacement of an expiring veterans, seniors and human services levy. If approved, this proposition would fund capital facilities and services for veterans, servicemembers, and their families; seniors and

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455 caregivers; and resilient communities susceptible to reduced health,  
456 housing, financial, or social stability outcomes. It would authorize an  
457 additional six-year property tax levy for collection beginning in 2024 at  
458 \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, with the 2024 levy amount being  
459 the base for calculating annual increases by 3.5% in 2025-2029; and  
460 exempt eligible seniors, veterans and disabled persons under RCW  
461 84.36.381. Should this proposition be:

462 Approved? \_\_\_\_\_

463 Rejected? \_\_\_\_\_

464 **SECTION 6. Governance.**

465 A. If the levy is approved by the qualified electors of the county, the King  
466 County veterans, seniors and human services levy advisory board shall continue to serve  
467 in its capacity in accordance with K.C.C. 2A.300.540 now existing or hereafter amended.

468 B. Beginning in 2025, the executive shall provide an online annual report to the  
469 council and community which shall include, but not be limited to:

470 1. The levy's fiscal and performance management and accomplishments during  
471 the previous calendar year;

472 2. The expenditure of levy proceeds by result area by ZIP Code in King County;  
473 and

474 3. The number of individuals receiving levy-supported services by result area by  
475 ZIP Code in King County of where the individuals reside at the time of service.

476 **SECTION 7. Implementation planning.**

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477           A. Contingent upon voter approval of the ballot proposition described in section  
478 5 of this ordinance, and by no later than October 31, 2023, the executive shall transmit  
479 for council review and adoption by ordinance an implementation plan for the veterans,  
480 seniors and human services levy. The implementation plan shall:

481           1. Describe the forecasted expenditure of levy proceeds to achieve results  
482 related to the levy's five result areas of housing stability, healthy living, financial  
483 stability, social engagement, service system improvement and service system access for  
484 veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their  
485 caregivers, resilient communities, and regional impact initiatives, consistent with the  
486 eligible expenditures described in section 4 of this ordinance;

487           2. Describe the planned portion of levy proceeds for veterans and military  
488 servicemembers and their respective families, seniors and their caregivers, resilient  
489 communities and regional impact initiatives to fund those regional health and human  
490 services that promote housing stability as required in section 4.B.5. of this ordinance;

491           3. Identify and describe the levy strategies to stabilize the nonprofit regional  
492 health and human services workforce;

493           4. Identify and describe the levy strategies to expand access to counseling or  
494 other behavioral health services, including for veterans and military servicemembers and  
495 their respective families and seniors and their caregivers who are not otherwise  
496 sufficiently served through community behavioral health providers;

497           5. Identify and describe measurable results expected across each of the levy's  
498 five result areas for veterans and military servicemembers and their respective families,

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499 seniors and their caregivers, resilient communities and regional impact initiatives due to  
500 the expenditure of levy proceeds;

501           6. Identify and describe a regular performance monitoring framework that will  
502 be used to assess and report on how well the veterans, seniors and human services levy is  
503 achieving those results identified and described in section 7.A.5. of this ordinance,  
504 including how the results will be evaluated for geographic distribution;

505           7. Describe how the veterans, seniors and human services levy program-specific  
506 performance monitoring and reporting will be coordinated with performance monitoring  
507 and reporting on other dedicated human services funds such as the best starts for kids  
508 fund and the mental illness and drug dependency fund;

509           8. Make recommendations for any refinements to the levy's governance  
510 described in section 6.A. of this ordinance and transmit separately for council review and  
511 adoption any applicable ordinances that would accomplish the recommended changes  
512 upon the effective date of those ordinances; and

513           9. Describe how the executive shall make each online annual report described in  
514 section 6.B. of this ordinance digitally available to all councilmembers, to all members  
515 and alternate members of the regional policy committee, or its successor, and to the  
516 public.

517           B. Until the council adopts by ordinance the implementation plan referenced in  
518 subsection A. of this section, subject to appropriation, levy proceeds may only be  
519 expended to continue existing levy-supported services into 2024 and consistent with the  
520 veterans, seniors and human services levy implementation plan adopted by Ordinance  
521 18768.

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522            **SECTION 8. Exemption.** The additional regular property taxes authorized by  
523 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW  
524 84.36.381.

525            **SECTION 9. Ratification and confirmation.** Certification of the proposition by  
526 the clerk of the county council to the director of elections in accordance with law before  
527 the primary election on August 1, 2023, and any other act consistent with the authority  
528 and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

529            **SECTION 10. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its  
530 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the



Ordinance 19604

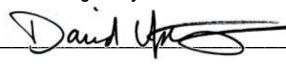
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- 531 ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is
- 532 not affected.

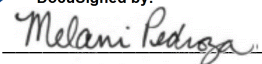
Ordinance 19604 was introduced on 2/21/2023 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/2/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry,  
McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

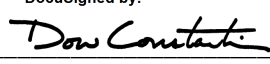
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 5/2/2023, \_\_\_\_\_.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None